Amendment

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 20, 23, 24, 35, 36, 41, 42, and 43, as shown below, without prejudice.

1. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for performing alternate routing of communications in a network, the method comprising:

initiating a communication from an origination endpoint in a packet-switched network to a destination endpoint, wherein the origination endpoint and the destination endpoint are located at different sites, and are associated with a private dialing plan (PDP) number identified in the communication; [[and]]

appending to the PDP number a customer-specific identifier (CSID) that uniquely identifies one of the sites;

determining, according to selection criteria, whether to route the communication to the destination endpoint using at least a second circuit-switched network; and

routing the communication to the destination endpoint via the second circuit-switched network based on the CSID.

~~within the packet-switched network, translating a destination endpoint identification number from a format associated with the packet-switched network into a format associated with the circuit-switched network.~~

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein initiating a communication comprises initiating a VoIP communication.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein initiating a communication comprises initiating a communication from a VoIP endpoint.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein initiating a communication from an origination endpoint in a packet-switched network comprises initiating a communication from an origination endpoint in a VoIP network.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein initiating a communication to a destination endpoint comprises initiating a communication to a VoIP endpoint.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein initiating a communication to a destination endpoint comprises initiating a communication to a PSTN endpoint.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein determining comprises determining according to available bandwidth criteria.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein determining according to available bandwidth criteria comprises determining whether a number of call counts processed by an enterprise gatekeeper is above a specified threshold.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein determining comprises determining according to network resource availability criteria.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein determining according to network resource availability criteria comprises determining according to the availability of a network component.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein determining according to the availability of a network component comprises determining according to the availability of a network endpoint.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein determining according to the availability of a network endpoint comprises:

sending, to a gatekeeper, an admission request containing a network address associated with the network endpoint;

wherein the gatekeeper is programmed to determine whether the network address associated with the network endpoint is a member of a set of available network addresses.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein determining according to the availability of a network component comprises determining according to the availability of a call mediator.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein determining according to the availability of a call mediator comprises:

sending, to a gatekeeper, an admission request containing a network address associated with a network endpoint;

wherein the gatekeeper is programmed to determine whether a call mediator associated with the network address is a member of a set of available call mediators.

15. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein determining according to the availability of a network component comprises determining according to the availability of a gatekeeper.

16. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein determining according to the availability of a network component comprises determining according to the availability of a gateway.

17. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein determining according to the availability of a network component comprises determining according to the availability of a router.

18. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein determining according to network resource availability criteria comprises determining according to the availability of a communication link.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein routing the communication to the destination endpoint using at least a second circuit-switched network comprises routing the communication using the PSTN.

20. (Currently Amended) A system for alternate routing of communications in a network, the system comprising:

an origination endpoint associated with an origination enterprise in communication [[in]] with a packet-switched network;

a destination endpoint associated with a destination enterprise in communication with the packet-switched network, wherein the origination enterprise and the destination enterprise are associated with a private dialing plan (PDP) number;

a call mediator receiving a communication sent from the origination endpoint to the destination endpoint, the communication including the private dialing plan PDP number, the call mediator appending a customer-specific identifier (CSID) to the PDP number, wherein the CSID uniquely identifies either the origination enterprise or the destination enterprise; and

a gatekeeper in the packet-switched network programmed to determine, according to selection criteria, whether to route [[a]] the communication from the origination endpoint to the destination endpoint using at least a second circuit-switched network, the gatekeeper further programmed to distinguish between the origination enterprise and the destination enterprise based on the CSID.; and

~~a translation gateway translating a destination endpoint identifier from a format associated with the packet switched network into a format associated with the circuit-switched network.~~

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the origination endpoint comprises a VoIP endpoint.

22. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the packet-switched network comprises a VoIP network.

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20, wherein the destination~~origination~~ endpoint comprises a VoIP endpoint.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the destination endpoint comprises a PSTN endpoint.

25. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the gatekeeper comprises an enterprise gatekeeper.

26. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the gatekeeper comprises an inbound gatekeeper.

27. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the gatekeeper comprises an outbound gatekeeper.

28. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the gatekeeper comprises a translation gatekeeper.

29. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the selection criteria comprises available bandwidth criteria.

30. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the available bandwidth criteria comprises whether a number of call counts processed by an enterprise gatekeeper is above a specified threshold.

31. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the selection criteria comprises network resource availability criteria.

32. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the network resource availability criteria comprises the availability of a network component.

33. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein the network component comprises a network endpoint.

34. (Original) The system of claim 33, wherein the gatekeeper determines the availability of the network endpoint by receiving an admission request containing a network address associated with the network endpoint, and determines whether the network address associated with the network endpoint is a member of a set of available network addresses.

35. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 32, wherein the network component comprises a second call mediator associated with the destination endpoint.

36. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 35, wherein the gatekeeper determines the availability of the second call mediator by receiving an admission request containing a network address associated with a network endpoint, and determines whether

a call mediator associated with the network address is a member of a set of available call mediators.

37. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein the network component comprises a gatekeeper.

38. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein the network component comprises a gateway.

39. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein the network component comprises a router.

40. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the circuit-switched network comprises the PSTN.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising translating a destination endpoint identification number from a format associated with the packet-switched network into a format associated with the circuit-switched network, wherein translating comprises translating a E.164 direct inward dial (DID) number into a PSTN-routable number.

42. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20 ~~wherein the~~ further comprising a translation gateway that translates a E.164 direct inward dial (DID) number into a number that is routable over a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN).

43. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for establishing a telephonic call from an origination endpoint to a destination endpoint, the computerized method comprising:

receiving a destination telephone number at a gatekeeper in a packet-switched network, the destination telephone number being in a private dialing plan (PDP) format associated with a site corresponding to the destination endpoint~~suitable for routing the telephonic call over the packet-switched network~~;

determining whether to route the telephonic call using the packet-switched network or a circuit-switched network based on network selection criteria;

~~translating, within the packet-switched network, the destination telephone number into~~ a ~~format suitable for routing the telephonic call over the circuit-switched network~~ appending an site identifier to the PDP number that identifies the site of the destination telephone endpoint; and

based on the site identifier, establishing a connection to the destination endpoint over the circuit-switched network using the destination telephone number ~~in the format suitable for routing the telephonic call over the circuit-switched network~~.